COMMUNITY

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

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Es nuestro momento: Un líder latino nacional de la construcción visita Detroit para destacar la crisis laboral y proponer soluciones políticas

Por Martina Guzmán

George Carrillo, director ejecutivo del Hispanic Construction Council (Consejo Hispano de la Construcción), visitó Detroit la semana pasada con un mensaje claro: los latinos son esenciales para construir el futuro de Estados Unidos, y Michigan se encuentra en un momento crucial en esa lucha.

Carrillo ha pasado los últimos meses recorriendo el país, utilizando datos, investigación y promoción de políticas para crear conciencia sobre el papel vital de los latinos en la industria de la construcción. En este momento de creciente tensión en torno a la inmigración y la controvertida aplicación de la ley migratoria en el país, se ha reunido con contratistas, líderes de ONG y legisladores para abordar la creciente escasez de mano de obra en el país y la necesidad de una reforma migratoria que reconozca las contribuciones de los trabajadores indocumentados.

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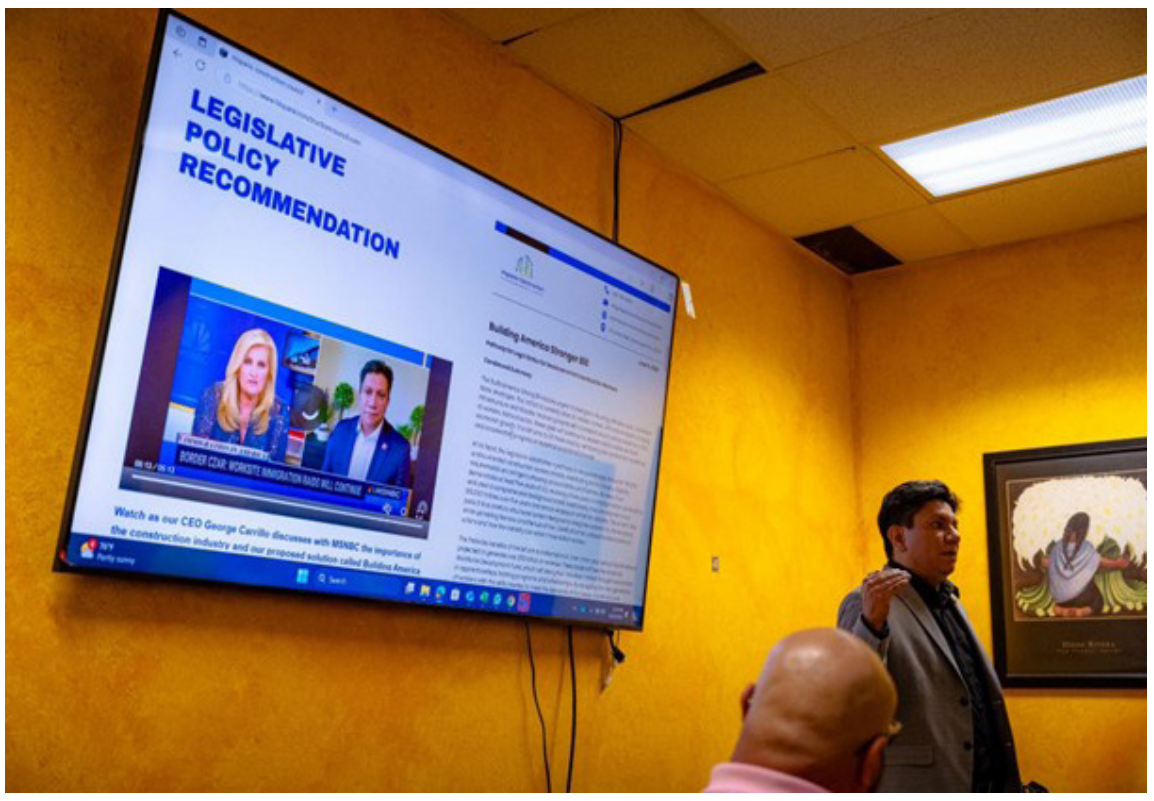
"This Is Our Moment": National Latino Construction Leader Visits Detroit to Highlight Labor Crisis and Policy Solutions

By Martina Guzmán

George Carrillo, CEO of the Hispanic Construction Council, visited Detroit last week with a clear message: Latinos are essential to building America's future, and Michigan is at a pivotal moment in that fight.

Carrillo has spent the last several months traversing the country, utilizing data, research, and policy advocacy to raise awareness about the vital role of Latinos in the construction industry. In this moment of heightened tension around immigration and controversial immigration enforcement in the country, he has been meeting with general contractors, nonprofit leaders, and policymakers to discuss the country's deepening labor shortage and the need for immigration reform that recognizes the contributions of undocumented workers.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Watch as our CEO George Carrillo discusses with MSNBC the importance of the construction industry and our proposed solution called Building America

George Carrillo speaks to attendees at the Real Talk series about his immigration policy recommendations for the construction industry, titled "Building America Stronger." Photo: Juan Carlos Dueweke-Perez, Featherstone

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Nuevo en línea: Escuche directamente a los candidatos de Detroit

DETROIT – Solo el 18% de los votantes participó en las elecciones municipales de 2021. Con elecciones importantes en 2025, es fundamental que la gente de Detroit se involucre. CitizenDetroit, una organización cívica sin afiliación política, se ha unido con Politics on the Go (POGO), una app digital para motivar a votantes jóvenes antes de las elecciones primarias y generales de 2025.

Juntos, van a identificar y conectar con los votantes de Detroit usando contenido que informa y motiva en internet y eventos en persona para aumentar el conocimiento sobre las elecciones y lograr que más personas voten. En el sitio web CitizenDetroit.org y en la plataforma POGO, los votantes pueden ver y escuchar a todos los candidatos que están en la boleta electoral de Detroit hablar sobre los temas importantes. Los videos de los candidatos, disponibles en varios idiomas, no están editados ni filtrados.

"No podemos pedirle a la gente que se involucre si no estamos dispuestos a ayudarlos a informarse," dijo Sheila Cockrel, fundadora de CitizenDetroit. "El futuro de Detroit no está garantizado, y es crucial que los votantes tomen decisiones informadas y elijan a líderes preparados para enfrentar los cambios que vienen."

"Poner subtítulos en español en los videos de los candidatos es una forma de incluir a los más de 50,000 latinos que vivimos en Detroit y de invitarnos a participar en las elecciones locales. Eso es vital," dijo Michael D. Gutierrez, Digital Content Manager de EL CENTRAL, quien tradujo al español más de 40 videos. "El compromiso de Sheila Cockrel y CitizenDetroit con las personas que no hablan inglés no solo ayuda a que más gente vote, sino que también nos permite tomar mejores decisiones en un tiempo donde hay mucha desinformación."

Candidates for 2025 City Council District 6: Gabriela Santiago-Romero, left and Tyrone Carter, right

Desde 2012, CitizenDetroit ha organizado más de 100 eventos educativos para votantes y se ha ganado la confianza como fuente de información clara y accesible sobre candidatos y políticas locales. Síguelos en redes sociales y visita elcentralmedia.com para obtener la información más reciente.

New Online: Hear Directly from Detroit Candidates

DETROIT—Only 18% of voters participated in the 2021 municipal election. With critical decisions ahead in 2025, Detroiters have to be engaged. CitizenDetroit, a nonpartisan civic organization, has partnered with Politics on the Go (POGO), an innovative, tech-driven solution to engage and mobilize young voters, and Activate Detroit, an organization that supports DetroitVotes.org to reach Detroit voters before the 2025 primary and general elections.

Together, they will identify and engage Detroit voters with compelling content online and in-person events geared towards increasing voter education and participation. Through their website, CitizenDetroit.org, and the POGO online platform, Detroiters can hear from every candidate on the Detroit ballot on where they stand on the issues. The candidate videos, available in multiple languages are unedited and unfiltered.

"We can't ask people to get engaged if we aren't willing to help them be informed," Sheila Cockrel, founder of CitizenDetroit, said. "Detroit's future is not guaranteed, and it is crucial for Detroiters to make informed decisions and elect leaders equipped to handle the changes ahead."

"Ensuring candidate videos are available with Spanish subtitles extends a welcoming hand to over 50,000 Latinos living in the city of Detroit, inviting us to participate in the democratic process on the local level. That's vital," said Michael D. Gutierrez, EL CENTRAL's Digital Content Manager, who translated each of the 40+ videos into Spanish. "Sheila Cockrel's and CitizenDetroit's commitment to the city's non-English speaking communities not only increases voter turnout across the board, but it also helps us all make informed decisions in a period of history where misinformation is at its height."

Founded in 2012, CitizenDetroit has hosted more than 100 voter education events and is a trusted source of clear, accessible information on candidates and policies. Follow CitizenDetroit on social media and visit elcentralmedia.com to find the most up-to-date information.

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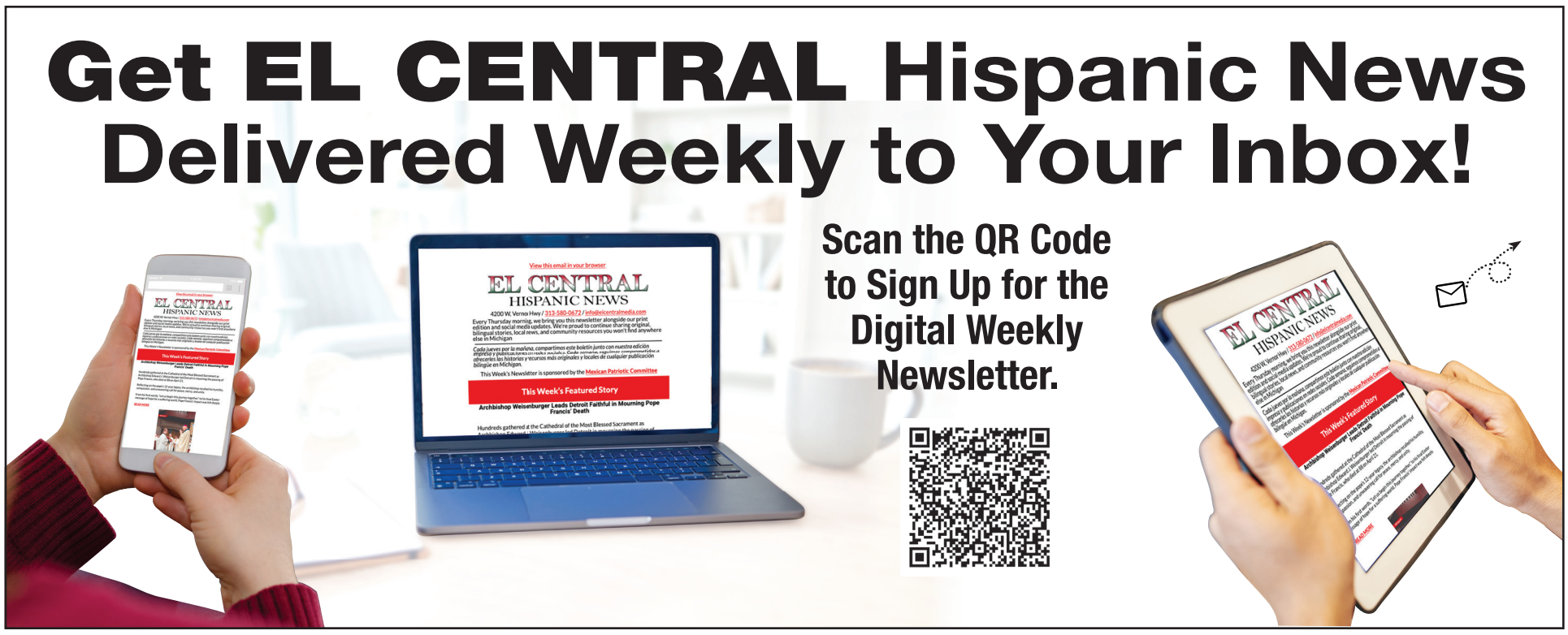
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FAMILY-FRIENDLY FESTIVAL
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
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METRO DETROIT'S 34th ANNUAL GLOBAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
"Get up, stand up, stand up for your rights!"
— Robert Nesta Marley

AAA Warns Homeowners of Common July 4th Holiday Hazards

Fireworks and grilling are among the most common risks

DEARBORN, Mich., (June 30, 2025) — As Americans prepare to celebrate Independence Day with backyard barbecues, fireworks displays, and poolside gatherings, AAA reminds homeowners to be mindful of potential risks that could lead to property damage or injury.

"While this holiday is a time of celebration, it also brings a spike in home insurance claims related to fires, water accidents, and other hazards," said Adrienne Woodland, spokesperson for AAA – The Auto Club Group. "With so many festivities happening at home, it's essential that people take proactive steps to protect their property and loved ones."

Grilling Safety: Keep the Flames on the Food

Nothing says Independence Day like a backyard barbeque, unless your grill burns more than the burgers. July is the peak month for grill-related fires, and AAA urges homeowners to follow these fire-free grilling tips:

- Supervise your grill at all times – never leave it unattended.
- Keep children and pets at a safe distance to prevent accidents.
- Place the grill away from homes, decks, and trees to avoid fire hazards.
- Never grill indoors or in enclosed spaces.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and water source handy for emergencies.
- Use long-handled tools to prevent burns and flare-ups.

Fireworks Safety: Leave it to the Pros

Fireworks are the grand finale of July 4th celebrations, yet they're responsible for thousands of fires each year. In 2022 alone, fireworks ignited 31,302 fires, including 3,504 structure fires and nearly $109 million in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

AAA Firework Safety Tips

- Keep a safe distance – fireworks should stay far away from homes, vehicles, and trees.
- Choose public fireworks displays – for a safer professional experience.
- Never allow children handle fireworks – sparklers burn hotter than blowtorches.
- Keep a bucket of water or hose nearby for quick fire suppression.
- Wear eye protection when lighting fireworks.
- Skip alcohol and impairing substances while handling fireworks.

"Fireworks are a beautiful part of the holiday, but safety should always come first," said Woodland. "A few precautions can keep the night dazzling without unwanted explosions."

Other Safety Tips:

- Pool Safety: Adult supervision, safety barriers, and flotation devices can prevent accidents.

- Food Safety: Cook food thoroughly, cover it properly, and store leftovers safely.
- Pet safety: Fireworks can stress pets. Keep them indoors and secure during celebrations.

AAA encourages homeowners to check their insurance policies before the holiday to ensure coverage for fire-related incidents and other risks. For more safety tips, visit AAA.com/Insurance.

About AAA - The Auto Club Group

The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America with more than 13 million members across 14 U.S. states and two U.S. territories. ACG and its affiliates provide members with roadside assistance, insurance products, banking and financial services, travel offerings and more. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with more than 65 million members in the United States and Canada. AAA's mission is to protect and advance freedom of mobility and improve traffic safety. For more information, get the AAA Mobile app, visit AAA.com, and follow us on social media.

Concert of Colors in Mexicantown

Photos by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval, Kopalli Media

The Mexicantown Community Development Corporation (MCDC) wishes to thank everyone who came out to enjoy the Concert of Colors in Mexicantown! The atmosphere was electric, filled with the rhythm of salsa, mariachi and Tejano music that inspired dancing and joy. Music transcends language and culture, and we truly witnessed that at the 2nd annual Concert of Colors in Mexicantown. Thank you to the sponsors of the 2025 Concert of Colors in Mexicantown for your support!

Muchas gracias a todas las personas que vinieron a disfrutar del Concierto de Colores en Mexicantown!

El ambiente fue emocionante, lleno del ritmo de la música de salsa, mariachi y tejana que inspiró baile y alegría. La música trasciende el idioma y la cultura, y de verdad que lo presenciamos en el 2.º Concierto Anual de Colores en Mexicantown. ¡Gracias a los patrocinadores del Concierto de Colores en Mexicantown 2025 por su apoyo!

From Facebook/MCDC

Ruben Garza y su Conjunto performs.

From left, La Explosiva radio host Alex "Batman" Resendez interviews Georgina García-Pfeuffer, of the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation during a live broadcast at the Concert of Colors in Mexicantown.

Ruben Garza.

Frank Solis, President of the Martin H. Solis Jr. Tejano Association, addresses the crowd. Solis led the successful effort to establish a state historical marker for the area's Tejano heritage.

A couple dances as Ruben Garza y su Conjunto performs at the Concert of Colors in the Mexicantown neighborhood.

Ruben Garza y su Conjunto.

Ruben Garza y su Conjunto.

Raymond Lozano, Executive Director of the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation, speaks to the audience.

The crowd enjoys the music.

EVENT SCHEDULE SAT. JUNE 28 2025
CONCERT OF COLORS
IN MEXICANTOWN
Mexicantown Mercado-Plaza: 2826 Bagley, Detroit
1:00 - 1:50pm DJ Oscar
1:50 - 2:00pm Frank Solis -Martin H. Solis Jr. Tejano Association
2:00 - 3:00pm Ruben Garza y su Conjunto
3:00 -3:45pm Armando Vega
3:45- 4:00pm Tatyana D'Voce
4:05- 5:30pm Mariachi Oro y Plata
5:30 - 6:15pm Tatyana D'Voce - Selena Experience
6:20- 8:00pm Ruben Garza y su Conjunto
CONCERT OF COLORS
Sábado, 28 de junio
|FREE ENTRY|
MEXICANTOWN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Road to Restoration program returns to Southwest Detroit, helps over 270 local residents learn their path to safe driving

Experts with Michigan Department of State (MDOS) and volunteer attorneys helped over 270 people understand what they need to do to restore their driving privileges at a Southwest Detroit Road to Restoration clinic on June 25. Twenty clinic participants rang a bell to celebrate the reinstatement of their driver's license, and three renewed their license with help from the MDOS mobile office.

"The Road to Restoration program continues to improve lives across the state and within the Detroit area," said Abigayl Venman, director of the Road to Restoration program. "Thanks to our generous partners and volunteer attorneys, we are able to meet residents where they are, lift barriers and offer direct support to thousands of Michiganders wanting to safely return behind the wheel."

The June 25 clinic was held at LA SED Senior and Youth Center in Detroit and was the third Road to Restoration clinic hosted at the site. Representatives with the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, 36th District Court in Detroit, 44th District Court in Royal Oak, and 50th District Court in Pontiac were also on site to help attendees. Volunteer attorneys and MDOS staff met one-on-one with clinic attendees to check their current license status, answer questions about their next steps, and provide services like vision testing and the written driver's exam on site. Participants also learned about the administrative hearings process at information sessions held at the clinic.

"My experience here at the Road of Restoration has been amazing," said Artist Moore, a Detroit resident who received his permit at the clinic after being without a license for over 30 years. The people here have been very, very kind, very professional. Very courteous. I can't believe how fast I got in and out. You can't beat this opportunity. It's an opportunity of a lifetime to get your life back in order. I can't wait to get my license."

"I kept paying off the tickets that I accumulated but once you get one more ticket, it kind of wipes all of the work that you were doing away," said Andreas Maholmes, a Detroit resident who received his permit at the clinic after being without a driver's license for over 15 years. "I was paying off a lot of my debts and just trying to drive clean. But today, it was honestly a smooth process. I went to the Secretary of State first. She helped me out, gave me my test, and then I took my test and went over to the United Way. It was really a simple process. I really wish I didn't take so long to get here."

"I had a horrible accident, I had some tickets that were left on me, and I didn't know what to do," said Pontiac resident Alicia Kelley, who fully reinstated her license at the clinic. "There were challenges of not being able to get to the doctor for different visits, for physical therapy, a lot of things. It's been hard not to spend time with my grandkids. Now with my driver's license, I am going to go home, praise God first, and then I'm going to figure out what I can do to get a car."

Road to Restoration partners include the Michigan Department of Attorney General, Michigan WORKS!, Michigan Association of United Ways, the Detroit Justice Center, DTE Energy, Miller Canfield, and Michigan 2-1-1.

Now in its fourth year, the Road to Restoration program has hosted over 65 clinics across the state and provided one-on-one assistance to over 11,000 Michiganders. This innovative program was created to help more than 150,000 people newly eligible to regain their driving privileges after changes to state law in 2021. About 3,000 more Michiganders were made eligible to apply for a driver's license on April 2 when Public Act 42 of 2024, repealed the state's three-year ban for people cited for driving without a license.

Road to Restoration clinics are free of charge, but some participants may be required to pay past fines. The clinics do not provide DUI expungement services and license reinstatement is not guaranteed.

The program will return to Southeast Michigan with a clinic scheduled in Adrian on July 31. Other upcoming clinics are in Detroit on Sept. 25, Flint on Oct. 8, and Dearborn Heights on Oct. 15. For more information about the Road to Restoration program, to find a clinic near you, or to register for an upcoming clinic, visit Michigan.gov/R2R or dial 2-1-1.

Kim Partee (left) with the Michigan Department of State celebrates with Alicia Kelley of Pontiac (right). Kelley left the Southwest Detroit clinic with her driver's license fully reinstated. Photo provided Michigan Secretary of State

National Latino Construction Leader Visits Detroit

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"We're about 500,000 workers short in the construction industry right now," Carrillo said. "That affects everything from housing to infrastructure. It's delaying projects, driving up costs, and threatening the stability of an industry that supports over $2.4 trillion in economic activity."

Carrillo's visit comes just months after the Hispanic Construction Council released a national study on the impact of Latinos in construction. In September, the organization will publish a 50-state report ranking how Hispanics fare across the U.S., based on revenue, project completion, and workforce development.

At Real Talk, a monthly gathering launched by Tanya Saldivar-Ali and Luis Ali of AGI Construction, which creates space for Detroit's BIPOC contractors to connect and collaborate, Carrillo promoted the council's Building America Stronger legislative proposal.

The proposal would create a work visa for undocumented immigrants already living in the U.S., potentially generating over $50 million in new tax revenue. The plan would reinvest that money into workforce development programs to train the next generation of builders, with a focus on underserved youth.

"This is about stabilizing the workforce," Carrillo said. "We're not just pointing out the problem, we're bringing a solution."

Detroit's Unique Role—and Challenges

Carrillo noted that Detroit faces the same systemic barriers as other regions, particularly in terms of immigration enforcement and its impact on the local construction industry.

"Detroit's proximity to the Canadian border means there's a different kind of fear here," he said. "There's a strong ICE presence, and small business owners feel it. It's not just about the worker shortage—it's also about intimidation and uncertainty."

Those dynamics, he said, are holding back the full potential of Detroit's booming construction sector. "People here want to build. They want to hire. But they're struggling to find skilled labor, and the fear around immigration policy only makes that harder."

Policy, Language, and the Fight for Reform

A former police officer, Carrillo believes language matters when advocating for change. "We're a country of laws. So let's be clear, most immigration violations are civil, not criminal. Yet people are being shackled and detained like they're violent offenders. That's not justice."

Carrillo uses that clarity to push lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to look beyond the politics. "We support removing criminals, but we also believe good, hardworking immigrants should have a chance to stay, contribute, and build a future here. That shouldn't be a partisan issue."

He argues that if construction collapses, so does the country. "Infrastructure is what separates us from a third-world nation. If we don't have the workforce to maintain it, we're in real trouble."

And to Latino communities across the U.S., Carrillo offers a message of unity and urgency.

"This is our time," he said. "Just like the Black community rose up after George Floyd, Latinos must come together, regardless of politics, and demand humane, common-sense policies. We need to break out of our cultural norms and speak with one voice. Because the stronger we are as a community, the stronger we are as a nation."

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Martina Guzmán is an award-winning journalist and the director of the Race & Justice Reporting Initiative at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Un líder latino nacional de la construcción visita Detroit

Con't de pg. 1

La visita de Carrillo se produce apenas unos meses después de que el Consejo publicara un estudio nacional sobre el impacto de los latinos en la construcción. En septiembre, la organización publicará un informe de los 50 estados que clasifica la situación de los hispanos en Estados Unidos, según sus ingresos, la finalización de proyectos y el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral.

En Real Talk, una reunión mensual impulsada por Tanya Saldivar-Ali y Luis Ali de AGI Construction, que crea un espacio para que los contratistas BIPOC de Detroit se conecten y colaboren, Carrillo promovió la propuesta legislativa del consejo, "Construyendo un Estados Unidos más Fuerte".

Esta propuesta crearía una visa de trabajo para inmigrantes indocumentados que ya viven en Estados Unidos, lo que podría generar más de $50 millones en nuevos ingresos fiscales. El plan reinvertiría ese dinero en programas de desarrollo laboral para capacitar a la próxima generación de constructores, con un enfoque en los jóvenes desfavorecidos.

"Se trata de estabilizar la fuerza laboral", dijo Carrillo. "No solo estamos señalando el problema, estamos aportando una solución".

El rol único de Detroit y sus desafíos

Carrillo señaló que Detroit enfrenta las mismas barreras sistémicas que otras regiones, particularmente en términos de control migratorio y su impacto en la industria local de la construcción.

"La proximidad de Detroit a la frontera con Canadá significa que aquí hay un tipo de miedo diferente", dijo. "Hay una fuerte presencia de ICE, y los dueños de pequeños negocios lo perciben. No se trata solo de la escasez de trabajadores, sino también de intimidación e incertidumbre".

Esas dinámicas, dijo, están frenando todo el potencial del floreciente sector de la construcción de Detroit. "La gente aquí quiere construir. Quiere contratar. Pero tienen dificultades para encontrar mano de obra calificada, y el miedo en torno a la política migratoria solo lo dificulta".

Política, lenguaje y la lucha por la reforma

El ex oficial de policía, Carrillo cree que el lenguaje es importante al abogar por el cambio. "Somos un país de leyes. Seamos claros: la mayoría de las violaciones migratorias son civiles, no penales. Sin embargo, se encadena y detiene a las personas como si fueran delincuentes violentos. Eso no es justicia".

Carrillo usa esa claridad para impulsar a los legisladores de ambos partidos a mirar más allá de la política. "Apoyamos la deportación de delincuentes, pero también creemos que los inmigrantes buenos y trabajadores deben tener la oportunidad de quedarse, contribuir y construir un futuro aquí. Eso no debería ser un asunto partidista".

Argumenta que, si la construcción colapsa, también colapsa el país. "La infraestructura es lo que nos distingue de una nación en desarrollo. Si no tenemos la fuerza laboral para mantenerla, estamos en serios problemas".

Y a las comunidades latinas de todo Estados Unidos, Carrillo les ofrece un mensaje urgente de unidad.

"Este es nuestro momento", dijo. Al igual que la comunidad negra se alzó tras George Floyd, los latinos debemos unirnos, independientemente de nuestra ideología política, y exigir políticas humanas y sensatas. Necesitamos romper con nuestras normas culturales y hablar con una sola voz. Porque cuanto más fuertes seamos como comunidad, más fuertes seremos como nación."

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Martina Guzmán es una periodista galardonada y directora de la Iniciativa de Reportaje sobre Raza y Justicia del Centro Damon J. Keith para los Derechos Civiles de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Wayne State.

Este artículo fue posible gracias a una generosa subvención a EL CENTRAL Hispanic News por parte de Press Forward, el movimiento nacional que busca fortalecer las comunidades revitalizando las noticias locales. Más información en www.pressforward.news.

Traducción Carmen Elena Luna

New Leadership, Renewed Vision: SDBA Charts New Path for Growth

By Amber Ogden

Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval, Kopalli Media

Southwest Detroit, known for its vibrant culture, tight-knit entrepreneurial spirit, and the pulse of community progress, is entering a new chapter. As the Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA) searches for its next president and CEO, what might seem like a moment of uncertainty is instead generating fresh energy, renewed partnerships, and an inclusive vision for the future as outlined at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 26th at Candela Hall in Southwest Detroit.

Brandi Watts, Vice President of Programs & Compliance, is committed to the principle that Southwest Detroit businesses deserve a seat at the table as an SDBA member, and business owners' voices will be heard in discussions that shape policies and investments.

"SDBA services more than 1,200 businesses and entrepreneurs through our programming," Watts said.

"La Joya Gardens reflects nearly a decade of planning and partnership with 53 residential units, including 40 affordable and 13 market-rate apartments, 6,000 square feet of retail and commercial space."

As the meeting progressed, the energy throughout the evening remained upbeat and high as CFO Andrew Melton provided a detailed financial overview, including a recent audit, to reassure community members of the transparency of the finances for the remainder of 2025.

As community members and residents enjoyed their dinner and networked with one another, there was anticipation for the election results for new board members. The elections brought fresh energy and perspectives to the table, reflecting the community's desire for both continuity and innovation.

Newly elected board members included Luis Ali, co-founder of AGI Construction, Sonya Rivas, owner of Casita Title & Escrow Agency, and Lydia Gutierrez of Hacienda Mexican Foods. Returning board members Irwin Danto and Jenn Smith also recommitted to a vision centered on equity, cultural preservation, and smart growth.

The SDBA's leadership team launched a series of sessions in early spring, inviting local business owners, block clubs, and nonprofits to offer input on what they hope to see in the association's next leader. Themes emerged quickly, including inclusive growth, deeper advocacy for legacy businesses, and new ways to bridge generational and cultural gaps.

In the interim, the organization has doubled down on supporting local businesses through grassroots engagement and partnerships. Programs like the Legacy Business Initiative and corridor clean-up efforts along W. Vernor Highway and Bagley Ave. have expanded with help from volunteers and partners like ProsperUS Detroit, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, and the City's Office of Mobility Innovation.

Community members and residents echoed one another, emphasizing their appreciation for the transparency in the process and thanking the board for the "good job" they are doing during the transition.

While the search for a new president is ongoing, with the goal of appointing a leader by fall 2025, the SDBA is using this time to build stronger systems and expand its reach. The board will continue to engage an executive search firm with deep roots in Detroit's civic sector, with an emphasis on finding a bilingual, community-first leader who brings both strategic know-how and local credibility.

This leadership transition is about more than filling a vacancy; it's about advancing equity, strengthening collaboration, and preserving the cultural identity that makes Southwest Detroit a vital part of the city's future.

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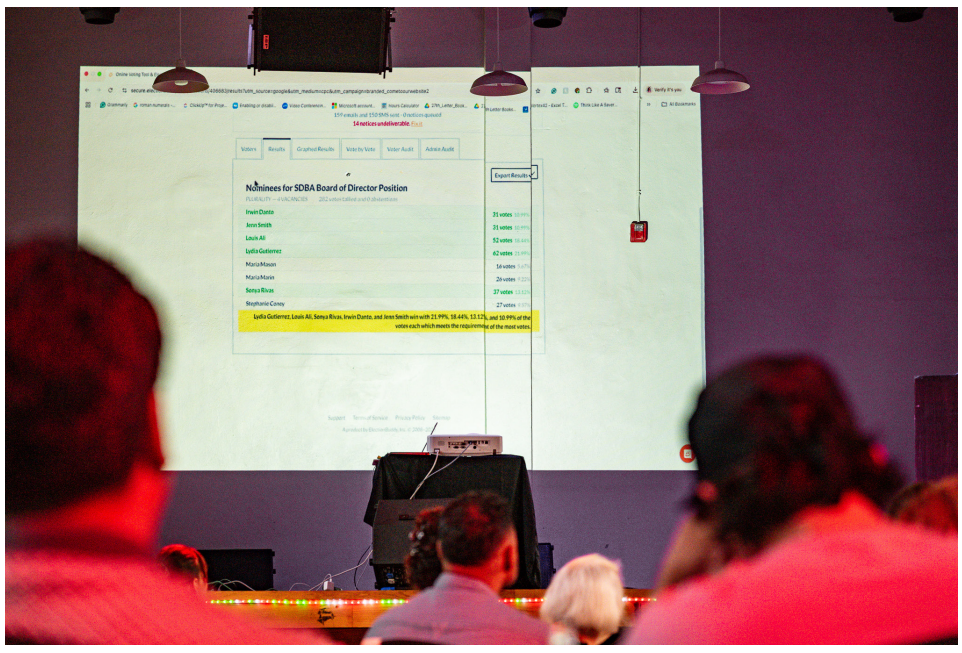
Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D, and Rachel Ray Every Day. She enjoys art and eating through the city in her free time.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.



(Left) Members of the Southwest Detroit Business Association gather for their Annual Membership Meeting at Candela Detroit. (Right) Board Election results were shared during the meeting

Building Unity in Diversity Across Wayne County's 673 Square Miles

Wayne County History Project Launches New Exhibits

Uplifting our shared history helps foster collaboration, says Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans who spearheaded the "Wayne County History Project". The 43 communities that make up Wayne County share a common history dating back to 1796. Understanding that history can help build unity across the region.

"To see the County evolve, to see the character of the communities become more enhanced, has really been a blessing to me." Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans at the exhibit's VIP opening June 12, 2025.

That's the rationale behind the initiative launched this month by Wayne County in partnership with the Detroit Historical Society. The Wayne County History Project includes a series of six exhibits highlighting a different group of Wayne County Communities.

The first exhibition in the Project features Redford, Westland, Livonia, Garden City, Inkster, and Wayne and runs now through August 31, 2025. Artifacts include a blue light from the first Kmart store in Garden City and a 1940s Bendix-Stromberg aircraft carburetor from Wayne, MI. Visitors can explore powerful stories of innovation in Garden City, resistance in Inkster, and transformation in Livonia and Redford. The exhibit shows how neighborhoods blossomed through agriculture, industry, migration, and the fight for civil rights. From the era of sundown towns and abolitionist hubs to launching groundbreaking Black-owned media and iconic businesses, each community's story holds a vital piece of the county's history.

"Wayne County isn't just the largest county in Michigan; it is also the most diverse. With that diversity comes an extraordinarily rich history that needs to be widely shared. It is my hope that the Wayne County History Project will help bring us together as One Wayne County through a better knowledge of our shared history," said Evans.

Each of the quarterly exhibits will highlight a different group of Wayne County Communities. The project is supported by a new public database which will archive the rich history of the communities. Debuting later this year, the Detroit Historical Society hosted database will be free and searchable by the public. Detroit Historical Society President and CEO, Elana Rugh, notes "The Detroit Historical Society was honored to partner with Wayne County on this landmark project. By sharing Wayne County's story broadly, and by creating a database that will serve Citizens and Scholars alike, we ensure that this important history is preserved for future generations."

The Wayne County History Project honors the people, places, and moments that built Wayne County's vibrant communities. Exhibitions will be on display at the Guardian Building (500 Griswold St, Detroit, MI 48226). They are free and open to the public during regular business hours. www.detroithistorical.org

Leather hand restraints from the now defunct Eloise Asylum in Westland, on exhibit at the Wayne County History Project in the Guardian Building through August 31, 2025.

Wayne County History Project

2025 Exhibit Openings

June 7: Redford, Westland, Livonia, Garden City, Inkster, Wayne

September 6: Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Van Buren, Sumpter, Huron Twp., Belleville

December 13: Romulus, Taylor, Ecorse, Brownstown, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Flat Rock, Southgate

2026 Exhibit Openings

March 7: Woodhaven, Gibraltar, Wyandotte, Grosse Ile, Riverview, Trenton, Rockwood

June 6: Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park

September 19: Detroit, Highland Park, River Rouge, Hamtramck, Melvindale, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights

Diles que lo Viste en *EL CENTRAL*

Tell them you saw it in *EL CENTRAL*

John Leguizamo's 'Leguizamo Does America' Renewed for Season 2 at MSNBC

By Selome Hailu, variety.com

"Leguizamo Does America" has been renewed for a second season at MSNBC.

The docuseries follows John Leguizamo in a travelogue format as he explores and highlights different Latino communities across America. Season 1 saw him visit New York City, Miami, Washington D.C., Chicago, Puerto Rico and Los Angeles, joined by guests including George Lopez and Robert Rodriguez. Locations for Season 2 have yet to be announced.

Season 1 premiered on April 16 at 10 p.m., and went onto achieve a higher number of viewers in the adults age 25-54 demographic than any other MSNBC Films series. It also beat CNN in terms of total weekly viewers during its six-week run, and was Peacock's most viewed MSNBC original in over two years. Hispanic viewers made up 13% of the audience of "Leguizamo Does America."

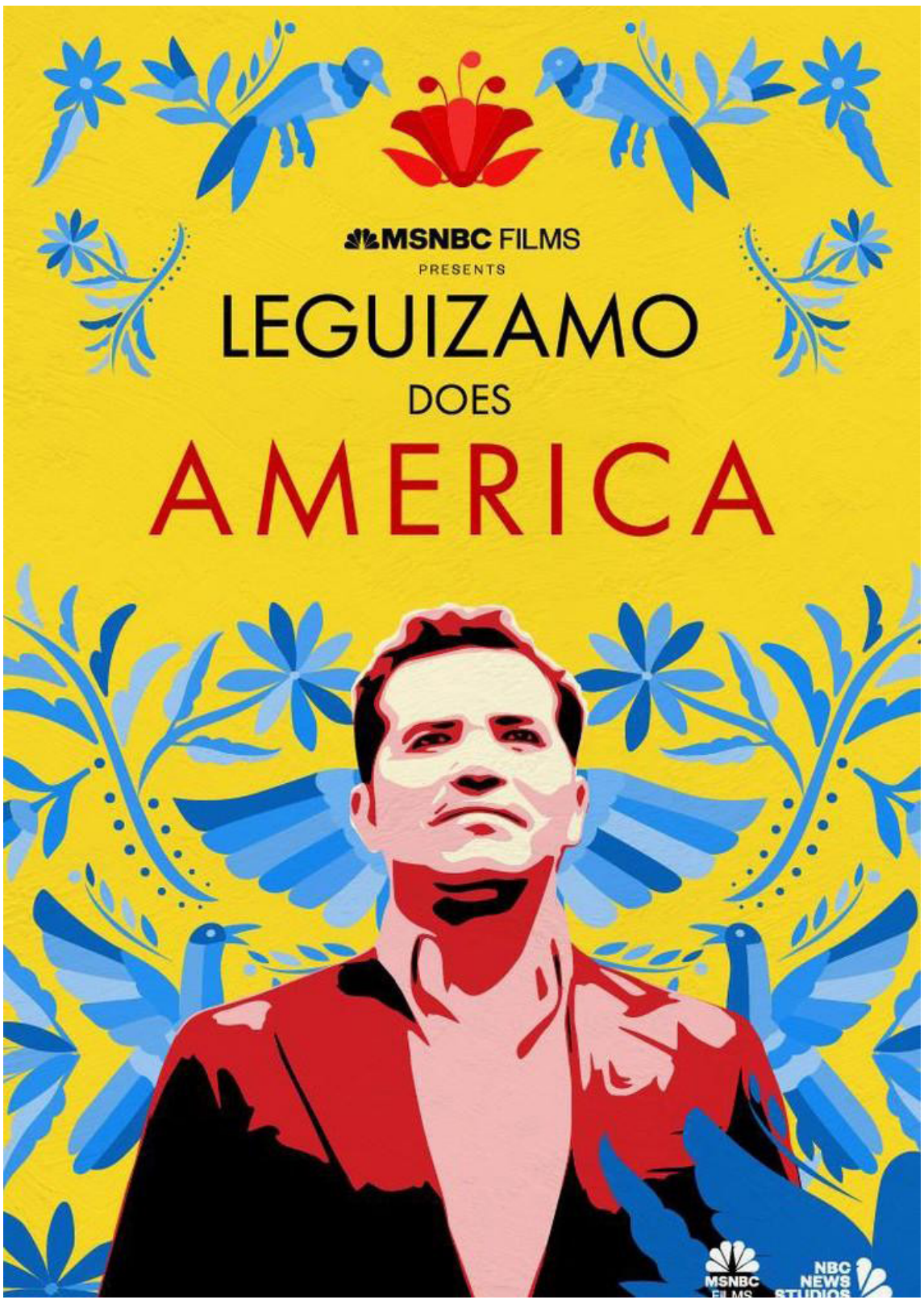
"I'm so excited for the opportunity to go deeper into America and keep exploring Latin excellence and go to the source of our happiness!" Leguizamo said. "More Latin legends dinners, more eating and laughter!"

"The team behind 'Leguizamo Does America' created an illuminating series that is as savvy and clever as it is savory and colorful — told through the lens of one of the most iconic voices of the Latino community," said Rashida Jones, president of MSNBC. "This show proves once again that there is an audience for diverse stories, and we are so excited MSNBC is its home for another season."

"It's been such an honor and pleasure to create, develop and produce this series with a partner as talented, brilliant and passionate as John Leguizamo," said Liz Cole, president of NBC News Studios. "We're especially proud to help put a spotlight on the Latino community's rich culture and significant contributions to this country, working with a predominantly Latino editorial and production staff. We had an exciting first season with MSNBC Films, and we're thrilled to collaborate with them again on season 2."

"Leguizamo Does America" hails from MSNBC Films and NBC News Studios. Ben De Jesus serves as director.

Episodes:
1: Philadelphia (July 6th)
2: Phoenix (July 13th)
3: Denver (July 20th)
4: New Orleans (July 27th)
5: Raliegh (August 3rd)
6: San Antonio (August 10th)



Detroit City FC and Santos Laguna Players Meet and Greet at Clark Park

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

On Tuesday, June 24, the players from Detroit City FC and Club Santos Laguna of Liga MX traveled to Clark Park in Southwest Detroit for an opportunity for area youth to pick up some soccer tips from the pros and come away with autographs and photos of some of the best players in the game. Plus, after the experience, they'll have endless stories to share with their friends and family about meeting some great role models on the field. The event was proudly presented by Ideal Group Detroit.

Club Santos Laguna midfielder Diego Medina and Detroit city FC midfielder Alexander Villanueva pose for a photo with a young fan.photo with a fan.

Kids take shots on an inflatable goal at Detroit City FC and Santos Laguna's "Street Soccer Social"

Club Santos Laguna midfielder Fran Vallalba signs an autograph for a young fan.

DCFC youth coach Duane Daniels celebrates a team goal.

Club Santos Laguna forward Cristian Dájome poses for a photo with a fan.

Kids play a game of street soccer at Detroit City FC and Santos Laguna's "Street Soccer Social"

A young DCFC fan plays goalkeeper against Club Santos Laguna midfielder Fran Vallalba.

Summer with the DSO

Clark Park Culture and Arts Festival is a Fusion of Art and Sound

Photos by Alejandro Uglade Sandoval, Kopalli Media

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra knows how to throw a great party! The free community event last Saturday, June 28 in Clark Park featured a great lineup of food, music and dance -- including musicians from the DSO, local artists and students from Southwest Detroit! Interactive arts and activities made for an afternoon of fun and learning about a variety of art forms for youth and families. The event was sponsored by General Motors in cooperation with the Clark Park Coalition and the City of Detroit's Office of Arts, Culture and Entrepreneurship (ACE).

Young violinists from the Sphinx Overture Program at César Chávez Academy

Face painter Veronica Brumbaugh shows a young girl her reflection after painting her face

Dancers from the Ballet Folclorico Moyocoyani Izel perform a "Son Jarocho,"

Dancer from the Motor City Street Dance Academy

Director Pia Bucco leads young musicians from the Sphinx Overture Program

International Friendly Match Is a Celebration for Detroit Soccer/Fútbol Fans!

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

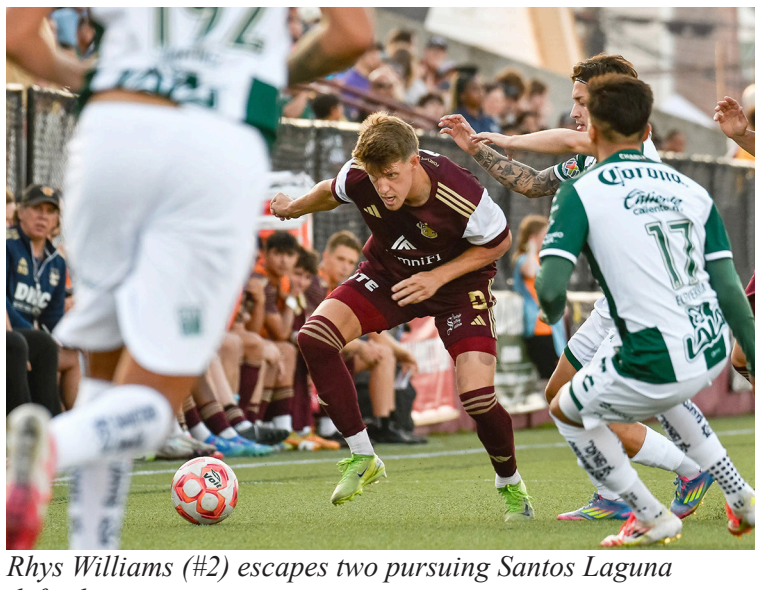
This year's International Friendly match between Detroit City FC and Club Santos Laguna from Liga MX was unforgettable. Detroit City's homefield of Keyworth Stadium in Hamtramck was filled with passionate supporters of both teams and their fans' energy and support helped create an electric atmosphere from start to finish. DCFC wishes to thank the performers who brought even more excitement to the evening — the pre-match pro wrestling show kicked things off with high-flying action, and the stunning halftime performance by the ballet folklórico dancers was a vibrant celebration of culture and community.

See more coverage of Detroit City FC Men's and Women's team victories last Saturday and USA's Gold Cup coverage by EL CENTRAL's David Levine on page 11.

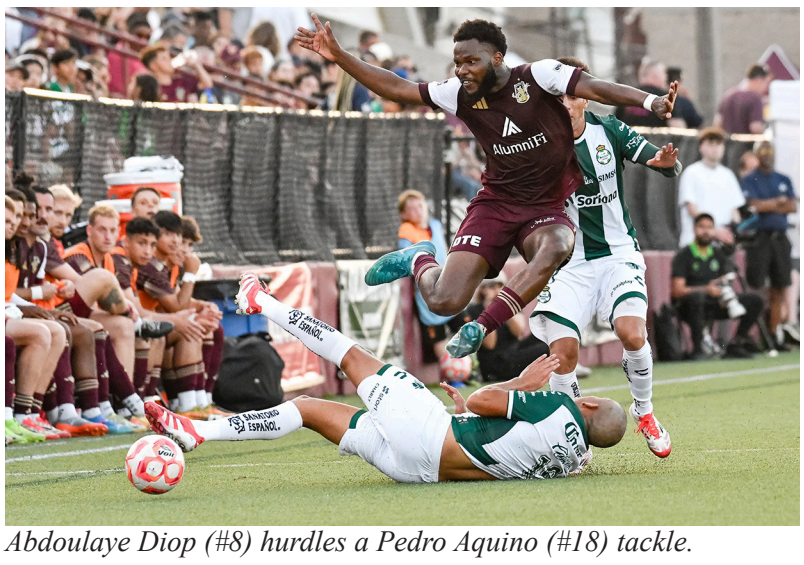
Club Santos Laguna players stand for the playing of the Mexican national anthem.

Detroit City FC fans fire off smoke for kickoff against Santos Laguna.

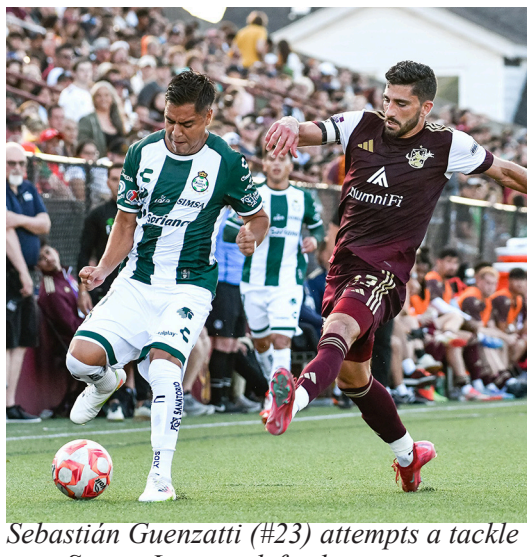
Emmanuel Echeverria (#7) and Abdoulaye Diop (#8) battle for a header.



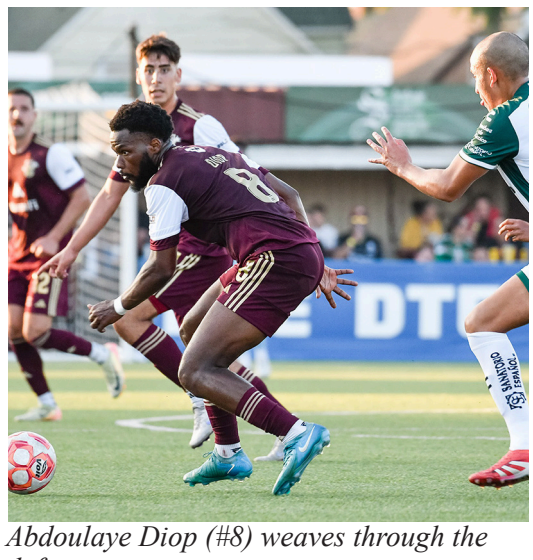
Rhys Williams (#2) escapes two pursuing Santos Laguna defenders.



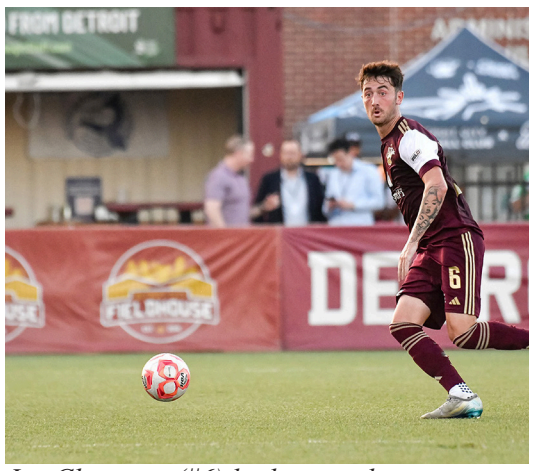
Abdoulaye Diop (#8) hurdles a Pedro Aquino (#18) tackle.



Sebastián Guenzatti (#23) attempts a tackle on a Santos Laguna defender.



Abdoulaye Diop (#8) weaves through the defense.



Jay Chapman (#6) looks to make a pass.

Dominic Gasso (#24) applies pressure as Santos Laguna tries to move the ball across midfield.

Jay Chapman (#6) trips up Aldo Lopez (#16) during a tackle attempt.

Jeciel Cedeño (#10) pushes an attack on goal.

Santos Laguna goalkeeper Hector Holguin (#33) looks to make a pass downfield as smoke from the Northern Guard sweeps across the field during stoppage time.

Santos Laguna 1, Detroit City 0: Fans Win!

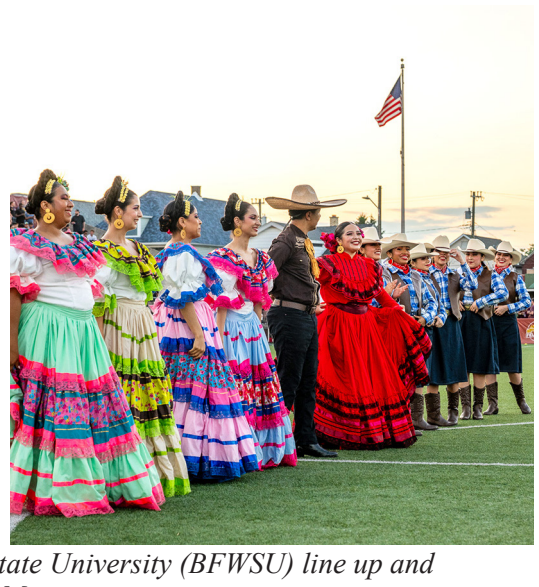
Photos by Adam J. Dewey and Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval, Kopalli Media

Club Santos Laguna fans get fired up during player entrances.

A Club Santos Laguna super fan spins his noise maker as players take the field.

A chant leader for the Northern Guard waves their scarf in the air during a DCFC chant.

Dancers from the Ballet Folklórico of Wayne State University (BFWSU) line up and perform a traditional folk dance from Sinaloa, Mexico



Members of the Ballet Folklórico of Wayne State University (BFWSU) pose for a group photo following their halftime performance at Keyworth Stadium.

A young Detroit City FC fan with a fist raised cheers from the stands.

Members of the Ballet Folklórico of Wayne State University walk along the sideline.

The Northern Guard fires off smoke as the game hits stoppage time.

Santos Laguna goalkeeper Hector Holguin (#33) takes a selfie with fans after the game.

Supporters of Club Santos Laguna wave flags and cheer for their team

Tarik Skubal, Strikes out 13 on Sunday Night Baseball !!!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

All photos by Adam J. Dewey

This past Sunday, the Detroit Tigers hosted the Minnesota Twins, on Sunday Night Baseball, in front of a packed and standing room only Comerica Park.

This was the first time the Tigers have been on ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball (since May 2017)

Tarik Skubal took the mound for the Tigers, and struck out 13 batters, during his 7 innings.

Skubal allowed only one hit in the 5th inning.

The Tigers defeated the Twins, 3 - 0.

The Tigers are currently still in first place (as of Tuesday afternoon, 7/1/25) in the American League, with a record of 53 - 32, and have an 11.5 game lead over the Cleveland Guardians in the American League Central division.

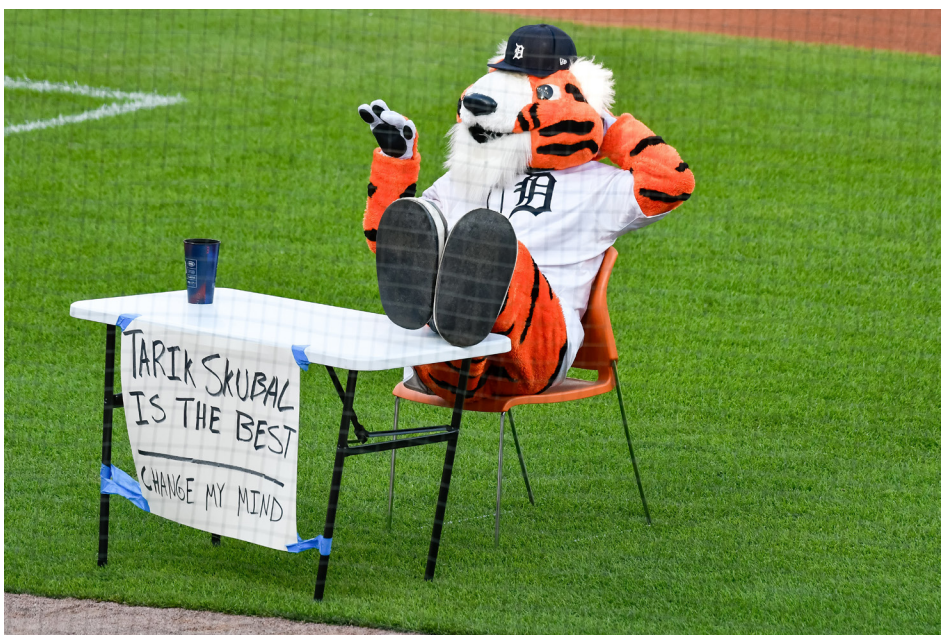
The Tigers host the Tampa Bay Rays, Monday, July 7th through Wednesday, July 9th. Then go on the road to take on the Seattle Marines, on Friday, July 11th through Sunday, July 13th

Tigers Gleyber Torres (Second Base), Javier Báez (Outfield), Riley Greene (Outfield), and Tarik Skubal (Pitcher) are all in the mix to make the 2025 MLB All Star team.

The 2025 MLB All Star game will take place at Truist Park in Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday, July 15th.

Photos below are highlights from Sunday's game between the Tigers and Twins

Phoenix Suns guard and Michigan native Devin Booker was in attendance to throw out the cermonial opening pitch



Paws sets up a table ready to debate Minnesota Twins over Tarik Skubal being the best in baseball

Tarik Skubal led the Tigers to victory on the mound with 7.0 IP, 1 H, 0 ER, 13 K's, 1 BB

Gleyber Torres swings at a Chris Paddock pitch

Javier Báez and Gleyber Torres pound fists at second base to celebrate the Tigers 3-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins

Riley Greene fields a fly ball in left field

Santos Brings Liga MX To Detroit

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

There are a lot of cultural events that bring people together in Detroit. From the Thanksgiving Parade to the Detroit Auto Show and the Marche du Nain Rouge. The varied immigrant communities across the region have their festivals, too, Italian, Greek, German, and more. Recently, a new culture has put down roots in Detroit. The football or futbol culture has been gaining steam since the 1970s, but only with the arrival of Detroit City FC in 2012 has it put down serious roots in the community.

To grow that community and attract a broader fan base, the club has engaged in an annual friendly game against a team based outside the United States. Visitors have included St. Pauli from Germany, Venezia from Italy, and Glentoran from Ireland. More recently, international opponents have come from Liga MX. FC Juarez, Pumas, Atlas, and Necaxa have made the long journey north to Keyworth Stadium.

Why are Liga MX teams coming to Detroit? Liga MX is actually the most popular soccer league in the United States. Every team in Mexico's top flight has a big following across the country. That was clear last week at Keyworth. The DCFC supporters have a reputation for bringing noise, smoke, and atmosphere, but this was a rare occasion when a large number of fans from the other team brought some noise. The green and white Santos fans made plenty of noise and even had smoke to match their hosts. It made for a vibrant, colorful scene reminiscent of the best grounds around the world, if on a smaller scale.

Liga MX teams are also more willing to play on Keyworth's artificial surface than teams from elsewhere. For them it is about connecting with their supporters, welcoming the culture of Mexican football into the United States. With a built in fan base, Santos Laguna or any other Liga MX team would be guaranteed to have fans. Clubs that come to Detroit typically have a meet and greet session before the game to deepen their connections here in Detroit.

From the Detroit City point of view, these games bring in a good crowd. Keyworth was packed last week. There were jerseys representing clubs across Liga MX, Europe, and even North America among the crowd. The food trucks did a brisk business. The club even set up a wrestling ring in the concession area and had a local group stage an exhibition that incorporated another type of performance popular on both sides of the Rio Grande.

As for the game, Santos won 1-0 on a first half goal by Emmanuel Echeverria. He broke through the DCFC back line and beat goalkeeper Tatenda Mkuruva. DCFC Coach Danny Dichio rested a number of regular players and included several players from DCFC's reserve team. Santos also substituted liberally, using their entire roster on a hot, humid evening. The teams contested every ball and delivered some crunching tackles that had both sets of supporters roaring.

While Santos, and other Liga MX teams that come to Detroit benefit from playing a challenging game as part of their preseason preparations, DCFC benefits from a big crowd and a great atmosphere. DCFC will be hoping that some of those locally based Santos supporters enjoyed themselves at Keyworth enough to adopt Detroit City as their home away from home team when Santos games aren't quite as easy to attend. They would certainly be a welcome addition to festive environment that surrounds a typical DCFC home game.

Photos from the DCFC vs Liga MX game on page 9

Fans Pack Comerica Park On Sunday Night !!!

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

A young Tigers fan poses in a giant Tigers catchers mask

Fans cheer Kerry Carpenter's first inning home run to right center.

Paws waves the Old English D flag in celebration of the Tigers 3-0 victory over the Twins

Fans take in the views of Comerica Park and the Detroit skyline

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

LULAC Affirms Commitment To Protecting Birthright Citizenship For All U.S.-Born Children

Nation's Oldest and Largest Latino Civil Rights Organization Vows to Fight Back Against Attack on the 14th Amendment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) today expressed its deep concern and opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court's 6–3 ruling in Trump v. CASA, Inc., which limits the ability of federal judges to issue nationwide injunctions, effectively allowing portions of President Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship to take effect in more than half the country.

"This ruling betrays our most fundamental promise: that every child born on U.S. soil is an American, period," said Roman Palomares, LULAC National President and Chairman of the Board. "The Supreme Court may have chosen procedure over principle today, but LULAC will not stand by while babies born under our flag are stripped of their rightful place in our nation. This is a moment of moral clarity. We must speak up, stand up, and show up for our children and our Constitution."

This decision marks a dangerous precedent in weakening constitutional protections. It opens the door for millions of American-born children to be denied citizenship based solely on the immigration status of their parents. Though the Court has temporarily paused the implementation of the order for 30 days, LULAC warns that the damage from this ruling could be swift and far-reaching.

For over 155 years, the Fourteenth Amendment has guaranteed birthright citizenship to all born on American soil. This bedrock of equal justice is not subject to executive whim or judicial trimming. The Court's decision to strip federal judges of the authority to halt unconstitutional executive actions nationwide will lead to a fragmented and chaotic application of the law, where geography determines rights.

"Today's ruling is not just a legal misstep. It is a moral failure," said Palomares. "It undermines the very principle that we are all equal under the law, regardless of who our parents are. If we allow this to stand, we allow fear and xenophobia to rewrite our Constitution."

LULAC warns about the real-world consequences of this policy: thousands of American-born children face the threat of being labeled "non-citizens" in their own country, denied birth certificates, healthcare, education, and fundamental rights. This cruel and punitive order would create a permanent underclass, echoing the ugliest chapters in American history.

The organization also praised the powerful dissents of Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson, who warned of the constitutional dangers of allowing unlawful executive actions to take effect piecemeal. Justice Sotomayor rightly noted that "no right is safe" under this new regime, and Justice Jackson called the decision "a sad day for America." Despite this setback, LULAC remains undeterred. As a proud plaintiff in State of New York v. Trump, LULAC will continue to challenge this executive order in Court, pursue full injunctive relief through all legal means, and demand legislative action from Congress to safeguard the 14th Amendment from executive overreach.

Palomares concludes: "LULAC calls on the American people to join us in this fight. Contact your lawmakers. Speak up in your communities. Defend the Constitution. No child born in this country should ever be told they do not belong. Our promise is clear: LULAC will not rest until birthright citizenship is reaffirmed, protected, and preserved for all children, in every state, now and always."

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

Opinión de un Invitado:

LULAC afirma su compromiso de proteger la ciudadanía por nacimiento para todos los niños nacidos en Estados Unidos

La organización de derechos civiles latina más grande y antigua del país promete luchar contra los ataques a la 14ª Enmienda

WASHINGTON, D.C. — La Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC) expresó hoy su profunda preocupación y oposición al fallo de la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos, emitido por 6 votos a 3, en el caso Trump contra CASA, Inc., que limita la capacidad de los jueces federales para emitir órdenes judiciales a nivel nacional, permitiendo así que partes de la orden ejecutiva del presidente Trump, que elimina la ciudadanía por nacimiento, entren en vigor en más de la mitad del país.

"Este fallo traiciona nuestra promesa más fundamental: que todo niño nacido en territorio estadounidense es estadounidense, y punto", declaró Roman Palomares, presidente nacional y presidente de la junta directiva de LULAC. "Puede que la Corte Suprema haya priorizado el procedimiento sobre los principios hoy, pero LULAC no se quedará de brazos cruzados mientras los bebés nacidos bajo nuestra bandera sean despojados de su legítimo lugar en nuestra nación. Este es un momento de claridad moral. Debemos alzar la voz, defender y defender a nuestros hijos y nuestra Constitución".

Esta decisión sienta un precedente peligroso en el debilitamiento de las protecciones constitucionales. Esto abre la puerta a que a millones de niños nacidos en Estados Unidos se les niegue la ciudadanía basándose únicamente en el estatus migratorio de sus padres. Si bien la Corte ha suspendido temporalmente la implementación de la orden durante 30 días, LULAC advierte que el daño de este fallo podría ser rápido y de gran alcance.

Durante más de 155 años, la Decimocuarta Enmienda ha garantizado la ciudadanía por nacimiento a todos los nacidos en suelo estadounidense. Este pilar de justicia igualitaria no está sujeto a la arbitrariedad ejecutiva ni a la moderación judicial. La decisión de la Corte de despojar a los jueces federales de la autoridad para detener acciones ejecutivas inconstitucionales a nivel nacional conducirá a una aplicación fragmentada y caótica de la ley, donde la geografía determina los derechos.

"El fallo de hoy no es solo un error legal. Es un fracaso moral", declaró Palomares. "Socava el principio mismo de que todos somos iguales ante la ley, independientemente de quiénes sean nuestros padres. Si permitimos que esto siga así, permitiremos que el miedo y la xenofobia reescriban nuestra Constitución". LULAC advierte sobre las consecuencias reales de esta política: miles de niños nacidos en Estados Unidos enfrentan la amenaza de ser etiquetados como "no ciudadanos" en su propio país, negándoseles certificados de nacimiento, atención médica, educación y derechos fundamentales. Esta orden cruel y punitiva crearía una subclase permanente, evocando los capítulos más atroces de la historia estadounidense.

La organización también elogió los firmes votos disidentes de las juezas Sonia Sotomayor y Ketanji Brown Jackson, quienes advirtieron sobre los peligros constitucionales de permitir que acciones ejecutivas ilegales se implementen de forma fragmentada. La jueza Sotomayor señaló acertadamente que "ningún derecho está a salvo" bajo este nuevo régimen, y la jueza Jackson calificó la decisión como "un día triste para Estados Unidos". A pesar de este revés, LULAC se mantiene firme. Como demandante orgullosa en el caso Estado de Nueva York contra Trump, LULAC continuará impugnando esta orden ejecutiva ante los tribunales, buscando una medida cautelar completa por todos los medios legales y exigiendo al Congreso acción legislativa para proteger la 14.ª Enmienda de la extralimitación ejecutiva.

Palomares concluye: «LULAC hace un llamado al pueblo estadounidense a unirse a nosotros en esta lucha. Contacten a sus legisladores. Alcen la voz en sus comunidades. Defiendan la Constitución. A ningún niño nacido en este país se le debe negar su pertenencia. Nuestra promesa es clara: LULAC no descansará hasta que se reafirme, proteja y preserve la ciudadanía por nacimiento para todos los niños, en todos los estados, ahora y siempre».

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Blackfeet – Native Americans

Legend Of How The Blackfeet Recovered Their Buffalo

Legend has it that many years ago, there existed a tribe of Native Americans called the Blackfeet, who lived on vast prairies where bison abounded.

One day, the bison began to disappear from the prairies, and the tribe's people began to starve. The chief of the tribe decided to consult Chareko, the wisest of the tribe.

"Soon, the cold will come, winter will arrive, and my people will have nothing to eat, nor skins to protect themselves from the cold. We cannot survive without hunting bison. We will all die."

After listening to the chief, the old man Chareko replied:

"There is a valley far away, beyond the Windy Hills, where a medicine man named Kinawakan lives. He has stolen their bison. Tomorrow I will leave at dawn to look for the bison and bring them back. I just need someone from your tribe to accompany me." "I'd like to go with you," said Lone Spirit, the chief's eldest son. "I'm grown up now, and I've completed the quest. In return, the spirits gave me the gift of turning into a bird, a dog, or a grasshopper."

The old man was very surprised, and Chareko realized this would help him.

The next day they set out on their journey. As they approached the Windy Hills, Chareko turned into a huge mosquito and Lone Spirit turned into a bird, and the two flew over the hills. When they reached the other side, they saw a single teepee, with no other people around it. The medicine man Kinawakan lived there with his wife and little daughter.

They quietly approached the tent. They heard voices, but couldn't make out anything.

They approached the teepee, and the puppy (Lone Spirit) began to bark, staring at the wooden stick (Chareko).

Hearing the barking, the girl came out of the tent and took the puppy in her arms, stroking it lovingly. She also took the wooden stick.

The next day, very early, the sorcerer went hunting. Afterward, the woman took her new stick and went out to look for roots, followed by <her daughter and the puppy.

After much gathering, the woman took a nap under a tree, while the girl continued to play happily with the puppy.

"Do you want me to tell you my secret?" she said to the puppy. "There is a place near here where there are some very large animals, much larger than you and me. Would you like me to show you there?"

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ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

The puppy began to jump around the girl, took the wooden stick in its teeth, and followed her.

They walked a little and came to a large rock that seemed to be hidden by a huge bush. The girl carefully moved some branches aside and brought the little dog closer so he could see inside. Although she had a firm grip on him, he broke free and ran into the cave with the stick in his mouth. The girl became very frightened and ran to tell her mother that the dog had grabbed the stick and escaped. Her mother became very angry, and they returned home.

Once inside the cave, Chareko had transformed back into a man, and Lone Spirit had transformed into a very large dog, rallying all the bison to force them out through the hole in the rock.

Kinawakan heard the roar of the bison herd and approached. When he arrived, he heard a man shouting and a dog barking. Someone had started the bison stampede.

When the last bison emerged, Kinawakan realized there was no one inside the cave. He became furious and swore revenge, turning into a very large bird.

As they returned, Chareko realized that the enormous bird following them could be none other than the sorcerer Kinawakan. He turned into a hare and lay down in the grass as if he were dead.

The bird approached her, ready to eat her; but Chareko quickly transformed into a man and grabbed the bird's legs tightly, tying them with a rope, to lead him to a post near the camp's central fire.

All day long, Kinawakan tried to free himself from the post, screaming incessantly, his feathers growing increasingly black from the smoke from the fires.

Since then, the ravens' feathers have always been black.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Pies Negros – Nativo americanos

Leyenda de cómo los Pies Negros recuperaron sus Búfalos

Cuenta la leyenda que existió hace muchos años una tribu de indios americanos llamados Pies Negros, los cuales vivían en unas praderas enormes donde abundaban los bisontes.

Un día los bisontes comenzaron a desaparecer de las praderas y las gentes de la tribu comenzaron a pasar hambre. El jefe de la tribu decidió ir a consultar a Chareko, el más sabio de la tribu.

—Pronto vendrá el frío, llegará el invierno, y mis gentes no tendrán nada que comer, ni pieles para protegerse del frío. No podemos sobrevivir sin cazar bisontes. Moriremos todos.

Después de escuchar al jefe, el anciano Chareko le contestó:

—Existe un valle a lo lejos, más allá de las Colinas del Viento donde vive un hechicero llamado Kinawakan, él les ha robado sus bisontes. Mañana partiré al amanecer para buscar los bisontes y traerlos de nuevo, sólo necesito que alguien de tu tribu me acompañe.

—Quisiera ir contigo —dijo Espíritu Solitario, el hijo mayor del jefe —Ya soy mayor y he hecho la búsqueda. En recompensa, los espíritus me dieron el don de convertirme pájaro, en un perro o en un saltamontes.

El anciano se quedó muy sorprendido y Chareko se dio cuenta que esto le ayudaría.

Al día siguiente emprendieron el viaje. Cuando se iban acercando a las Colinas del Viento, Chareko se convirtió en un mosquito enorme y Espíritu Solitario se transformó en un pájaro, y los dos volaron por las colinas. Al llegar al otro lado vieron un Tipi solo, sin ningún otro a su alrededor. Allí vivía el hechicero Kinawakan con su mujer y con su pequeña hija.

Sigilosamente se acercaron hacia la tienda. Oyeron voces, pero no conseguían descubrir nada.

Se acercaron al Tipi y el cachorro de perro (Espíritu Solitario) empezó a ladrar mirando fijamente a la vara de madera (Chareko).

Al oír los ladridos, la niña salió de la tienda, y cogió al cachorro entre sus brazos acariciándole con cariño; también cogió la vara de madera.

Al día siguiente, muy temprano, el hechicero salió a cazar. Después la mujer cogió su nueva vara y salió a buscar raíces, seguida por su hija y el cachorro.

Después de mucho recolectar, la mujer se tomó una siesta bajo un árbol, mientras la niña seguía jugando muy contenta con el cachorro.

—¿Quieres que te diga mi secreto? —Le dijo al cachorro —Hay un sitio cerca de aquí donde hay unos animales muy grandes, mucho más que tú y yo. ¿Te gustaría que te enseñara ese sitio?

El cachorro comenzó a dar saltos alrededor de la niña, cogió la vara de madera entre los dientes y la siguió.

Caminaron un poco y llegaron a una gran roca que estaba como tapada por un arbusto enorme. La niña apartó algunas ramas con cuidado y acercó al perrito para que éste viera hacia el interior, y aunque lo tenía bien agarrado, éste se soltó, metiéndose a la caverna con la vara en el hocico. La niña se asustó mucho y corrió a avisar a su madre contándole que el perro había cogido la vara y se había escapado. La madre se enfadó mucho y volvieron a casa.

Ya en el interior de la caverna, Chareko se había transformado de nuevo en hombre y Espíritu Solitario en un perro muy grande, reuniendo a todos los bisontes y para conseguir que salieran por el agujero de la roca.

Kinawakán escuchó el estruendo de la manada de bisontes y se acercó. Al llegar escuchó los gritos de un hombre y los ladridos de un perro. La estampida de los bisontes había sido provocada por alguien.

Al salir el último bisonte, Kinawakan se dio cuenta de que no había nadie dentro de la cueva, se puso muy furioso y juró vengarse, convirtiéndose en un ave muy grande.

Cuando venían de regreso Chareko comprendió que ese pájaro enorme que los seguía no podía ser otro que el hechicero Kinawakan, se convirtió en liebre y se tumbó en la hierba como si estuviese muerta.

El pájaro se acercó a ella dispuesto a comérsela; pero rápido y veloz Chareko se transformó en hombre y agarró fuertemente las patas del pájaro atándolas con una cuerda, para llevarlo a un poste cerca del fuego central del campamento.

Durante todo el día Kinawakan estuvo intentando soltarse del poste, gritando sin cesar y con las plumas cada vez más negras por el humo de las hogueras.

Desde entonces las plumas de los cuervos han sido siempre negras.

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